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12-12-12

**Written Testimony to the Appropriations Committee on
February 22, 2013 in opposition to the deep cuts proposed in
the Governor's Budget**

The Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce recognizes that our Governor faced difficult choices developing his state budget for FY 2014-2015. With a state's proposed budget deficit of more than \$1 billion and because health care makes up a large slice of the state budget, rethinking care delivery has to be part of the solution.

But the proposed cuts are too severe. Our members estimate that for the rest of this fiscal year through fiscal year 2015, this budget would reduce Hartford HealthCare's anticipated state Medicaid revenue for our four acute-care hospitals by nearly \$138 million.

For MidState Medical Center, our local hospital, that total would be more than \$17 million over three years.

The chamber feels strongly that the cuts being proposed unfairly burden the hospitals in our state and target funds that hospitals depend on to care for our neediest patients. These reductions come at a time when Hartford HealthCare is investing in areas such as care coordination and electronic health records to create a system that provides consistently better care at lower cost. We believe such a system is one of the long-term remedies to the state's health care budget dilemma.

Hartford HealthCare and MidState are committed to creating the best and the more cost-effective care in Connecticut. However, they cannot fulfill that vital safety-net role and build out new systems with these massive cuts that are staring the medical community in the face.

Please know that we oppose cuts that threaten the care of our most vulnerable residents and that endanger the economic future of Connecticut's hospitals. Our chamber stands in opposition to these deep cuts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Séan W. Moore', written over a horizontal line.

Séan W. Moore
President

*The Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce serves our member businesses
in Meriden, Wallingford, Southington, Berlin, Cheshire and Middletown, CT*
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